

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 41-001
Septic System**

Technical Area (TA)-41 is located in Los Alamos Canyon, upstream of TA-2. The primary activities that occur at TA-41 involve engineering, design, and development of nuclear components, including fabrication and evaluation of test materials for weapons.

PRS History: PRS 41-001 is an inactive septic tank that operated from 1949 to 1953. The tank received sanitary waste from a guard house (Building 41-2) via a 4-inch vitrified clay pipe; overflow from the tank empties into a single 4-inch drain tile line approximately 60 feet in length. The guard house has been removed; however, the tank and vitrified clay pipe are believed to be abandoned in place. Archival information from 1986 indicates that this septic tank is contaminated with plutonium, uranium, and tritium. Engineering drawings show that this septic tank was connected to a guard shack, but not to laboratory facilities. It is unknown where this radioactive contamination originated, and whether the tank may be contaminated with non-radioactive constituents. Potential contaminants of concern include the radiological constituents plutonium, gamma-emitting isotopes, strontium-90, total uranium, tritium, metals, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds. PRS 41-001 is not listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module of the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The ER Project has not proposed the site for no further action.



*Photo Currently
Unavailable*

Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 41-001 was burned during the Cerro Grande fire (a fire intensity rating of low to moderate). The drain line tile may be subject to scouring although there is no debris on the site that could enter the flood watercourse. The site does not contain structures that interfere with or be impacted by flood mitigation efforts.

Accelerated Action Status: As part of the Cerro Grande fire recovery activities, accelerated actions have been implemented for the PRSs located at TA-41. A surface radiation survey was completed in October 2000 for TA-41 including PRS-41-001 in order to determine the nature and extent of contamination in the tank. No elevated radioactivity was detected.

Related Documents:
"Solid Waste Management Units Report," Vol. III of IV (TA-26 through TA-50), LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.
"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.
"Sampling Notification," letter from D. McInroy, LANL ER Project, to J. Kielsing, NMED-HWB, Reference number ER2000-0429, August 17, 2000.